

MARKED-UP VERSION OF NEW CLAIMS

C\ 18. (new) A method for using a computer to present price comparison to a prospective buyer for products offered for sale by a plurality of merchants, said merchants stocking said products in stores that said prospective buyer may personally visit to see and/or touch and/or feel said products, said method comprising:

collecting information from a plurality of said merchants that comprises data on said products including price;

storing said data into at least one of a plurality of databases;

presenting at least one of a plurality of records that shows said comparison to said prospective buyer.

Sub 19. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein a search key is used for retrieving the data from said databases.

Sub 20. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising checking said store inventory of said merchants to determine the availability of said products.

21. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising reserving at least one of a plurality of said products that can be picked up later at said merchant store.

22. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising accepting a credit card number from said prospective buyer to purchase said products.

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23. (new) An apparatus for presenting price comparison to a prospective buyer for products offered for sale by a plurality of merchants, said merchants stocking said products in stores that said prospective buyer may personally visit to see and/or touch and/or feel said products, comprising:
at least one of a plurality of storage devices;
at least one of a plurality of processors connected to said storage devices;
said storage devices storing
information from a plurality of said merchants that comprises data on said products including price;
a program for controlling said processors
said processors operative with said program to present at least one of a plurality of records that shows said comparison to said prospective buyer.

24. (new) The apparatus of claim 6, in which said processors are further operative with said program to use a search key to retrieve said data from said storage devices.

25. (new) The apparatus of claim 6, in which said processors are further operative with said program to check said store inventory of said merchants to determine the availability of said products.

26. (new) The apparatus of claim 6, in which said processors are further operative with said program to reserve at least one of a plurality of said products that can be picked up later at said merchant stores.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 6, in which said processor is further operative with said program to receive a credit card number from said prospective buyer to purchase said products.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 17 continue to be in the case. Claims 1 through 10

are being canceled.

New claims 18 through 27 are being added. These claims are based on claims 10 - 20, of which there is no record at the USPTO. Claims 11-20 were merely corrected claims 1-10, and corrections were responsive to Examiner objections to informalities and punctuation.

Miscellaneous Office Correspondence says: "Before submission of this Preliminary Amendment, only claims 1-10 were pending. The Preliminary Amendment did not cancel any claims, yet it added claims 21-27, yet it added claims 21-27. Under Rule 1.126, these claims were renumbered as claims 11-17, respectively;"

Applicants appreciate renumbering claims 21-27 as claims 11-17.

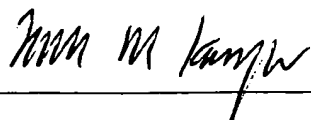
Applicants submit that the prior art made of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the present invention.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner should not be able to find a certain element of Applicants' claims in a search of the state of the art and such element is deemed by the Examiner to be necessary for forming a basis for a rejection, then the Examiner is invited to inform the Applicants of such element in order to allow the Applicants to fully meet their disclosure requirement in view of innumerable and hypothetical possibilities of combining references to allege obviousness of individual claims. In particular, in view of different levels of familiarity of inventors with the information disclosure requirements of the United States Patent and Trademark Office developed in recent years and apparently still developing, which disclosure requirements are believed to be unique in the world, any help and suggestions regarding possible problems seen by the Examiner are welcome.

All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,
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